

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1751

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNCTAD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD - COMMON FUND - US STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OPENING STATEMENT US DEL PLANS
TO DELIVER THURSDAY, MARCH 10. GROUP B HAS AGREED ON BRIEF,
GENERAL STATEMENT WHICH IS TO BE DELIVERED BY GROUP B
COORDINATOR (BARRASS) IN NAME OF ALL GROUP COUNTRIES (SEPTTEL).
NORWEGIAN DEL HAS ALREADY SAID THAT IT DOES NOT GO NEARLY FAR
ENOUGH TO SATISFY NORWAY AND HE WILL BE COMPELLED TO MAKE
INDIVIDUAL STATEMENT. EC WILL ALSO MAKE STATEMENT AS WORKED
OUT IN MARCH 8 COUNCL AGREEMENT ON OVERALL EC POSITION
FOR THE CONFERENCE. A NUMBER OF OTHER GROUP B COUNTRIES,
IN PARTICULAR THE OTHER NORDICS AND JAPAN, HAVE SAID THAT
THEY ARE LIKELY TO MAKE STATEMENTS. US STATEMENT HAS BEEN
CAREFULLY COORDINATED ON SUBSTANCE AND TACTICS WITH EC. WE
ARE ALSO COORDINATING WITH JAPANESE AND OTHER KEY GROUP B
COUNTRIES.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. CHAIRMAN:
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THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICI-
PATE IN THIS CONFERENCE ON A COMMON FUND. OUR DECISION TO
ATTEND REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO A CO-
OPERATIVE DIALOGUE AMONG DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO THE PROBLEMS OF COMMODITIES.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE COM-
MODITIES AREA WHICH MUST BE ADDRESSED PROMPTLY AND EFFECT-

IVELY. OUR COUNTRIES HAVE A MUTUALITY OF INTEREST IN THE RESOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS. FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, EARNINGS FROM COMMODITIES ARE CRITICAL TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO SUPPORT. AT THE SAME TIME, ALL COUNTRIES -- DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING, PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS -- HAVE A MAJOR INTEREST IN ASSURING THAT OUR GOAL OF A STABLE, EXPANDING WORLD ECONOMY IS NOT THREATENED EITHER BY EXCESSIVE FLUCTUTATIONS OF COMMODITY PRICES AND EXPORT EARNINGS OR BY AN INADEQUACY OF RESOURCES AND COMMODITIES.

IT IS WITHIN THIS FARMEWORK OF MUTUAL INTEREST THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO ACT ON COMMODITIES PROBLEMS. IN OUR VIEW, THE PROBLEMS FACED IN THE COMMODITIES AREA REQUIRE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH, ADDRESSING PRICE STABILIZATION, TRADE, THE IMPROVEMENT OF MARKET STRUCTURES, THE STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, AND INVESTMENT. THE UNITED STATES HAS A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON ALL THESE ISSUES, AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING ITS SPECIFIC VIEWS ON WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN COOPERATE IN THE RESOLUTION OF COMMODITIES PROBLEMS. WE ARE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THEM CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THE COMING MONTHS IN A NUMBER OF MEETINGS INCLUDING, IMPORTANTLY, THE WORK NOW UNDERWAY IN UNCTAD AND ELSEWHERE ON A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES.

THIS CONFERENCE WILL ADDRESS AN IMPORTANT AND COMPLES TASK -- NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMMON FUND. THE UNITED STATES HAS NO A PRIORI OBJECTION TO A COMMON FUND FOR INDIVIDUALLY AGREED BUFFER STOCKS. THEREFORE, WE ARE PREPARED AT THIS

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CONFERENCE TO BEGIN TO NEGOTIATE ACTIVELY, WITHOUT PRE-COMMITMENT, ON THE POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES AND ELEMENTS OF SUCH A FUND.

MANY OF THE DECISIONS ON THE STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF A COMMON FUND CAN ONLY BE MADE BY OUR INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS AFTER WE HAVE A CLEARER VIEW OF THE LIKELY RESULTS OF THE WORK UNDERWAY ON SPECIFIC COMMODITIES. BUT THERE IS NO REASON TO DELAY OUR CONSIDERATION OF A COMMON FUND. A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR AN AGREEMENT ON THEM WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT TO OUR SUBSEQUENT DECISIONS. THEREFORE, WE HOPE, MR. CHAIRMAN THAT DETAILED DELIBERATIONS CAN NOW EGIN.

IT IS IN THIS OPEN-MINDED SPIRIT THAT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING. WE HOPE AND INTEND TO MAKE A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPORTANT WORK HERE. END TEXT. CATTO

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